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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

Sept. 2, 1981
Local

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, ILL.--Historic coverlets first woven by Indiana housewives are on exhibit in the Paul Sargent Gallery at Eastern Illinois University.

The earliest coverlets of geometric and plaid design were woven by the "overshot" technique. This pattern was formed by small floats of colored wool "overshooting" a linen foundation, producing an infinite number of patterns.

By 1830, as professional weavers came to Indiana, a new method requiring a semi-mechanized loom was used to produce a fabric of varigated weave with figures woven into the pattern.

Professional weavers "signed" their works with trademarks appearing in a weaver's block in the corner of the coverlets. One of the featured weavers in the exhibit is William Craig, a native of Scotland who came to Indiana in 1830.

The exhibition is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Saturday, and 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Located in the University Union, the coverlets will be on exhibit through September 23.